Chapter 2
Changes to Draft EIS Text

This chapter identifies the specific changes to the text of the Draft EIS. Text changes are organized by the chapters and sections of the Draft EIS. For each change, the location of the change is identified by page and paragraph number of the Draft EIS. Where text has been modified, deleted text is indicated in "strikethrough" format and new text is underlined.

Summary

Purpose and Need for Action

Page S-3, paragraph 7 has been modified as follows:

> In most cases, ~~A~~a trackhoe would be used to excavate an area for the footings. In solid rock areas where digging is not possible, blasting would be used. The excavated area would be at least 2 feet larger than the footings to be installed (if the soil is loose or sandy, then a wider hole may be necessary). Each tower would use an area about 0.05~~6~~ acre, with a temporary disturbance during construction of about ~~0.25~~0.50 acre (equipment, tower assembly, vehicle maneuvering, soils, etc.).

Page S-4, paragraph 3 has been modified as follows:

> The new transmission line would require some upgrades to existing access roads (approximately 40 miles would need to be reconditioned and widened); construction of new access roads (about ~~3~~ 8 miles of new road would need to be built); construction of new access road spurs (about 270 short spur roads, each about 250 feet long from an existing access road to a new tower); and purchase of new easement (for up to 30 new access roads in areas off of the right-of-way).

Affected Environment, Environmental Impacts, and Mitigation

Page S-9, paragraph 1 has been modified as follows:

Approximately ~~47~~ 63 acres (~~12~~ 18 acres in cropland and ~~35~~ 45 acres in grazing land) would be impacted during the construction of the new access roads and spur roads. Approximately ~~93~~ 186 acres (~~29~~ 58 acres of ~~upland~~ cropland and ~~64~~ 128 acres of grazing land) would be impacted during the construction of the towers.

Page S-9, paragraph 4 has been modified as follows:

The permanent footprints of the towers would occupy approximately ~~19~~ 18 acres total (6 acres of irrigated and nonirrigated cropland and ~~13~~ 12 acres of grazing land). New access roads would occupy approximately ~~47~~ 63 acres of additional area. The cropland no longer available for farm use would represent a small portion of the agricultural land in the project corridor and a negligible portion of agricultural land in each of the four affected counties. This would not appreciably disrupt the current and planned agricultural uses of the land in the four affected counties.

Page S-9, after last bullet item, text has been added as follows:

- Repair damages to access roads caused by or arising out of Bonneville use, leaving roads in good or better condition than prior to construction.

Page S-10, paragraph 6 has been modified as follows:

Construction of the proposed project would potentially remove vegetation and disturb the underlying soils in up to ~~222~~ 289 acres. ~~This temporary~~ These impacts are~~is~~ projected to last up to one year and ~~has~~ have the potential to increase the rate of erosion along the corridor. In areas along the corridor where quaternary period loess soils have developed as a result of wind deposition, removal of vegetation would likely increase the rate of wind erosion.

Page S-11, bullet item 4 has been modified as follows:

- ~~Ensure graveled surfaces on access roads in areas of sustained wind~~. In areas of potential wind erosion, apply gravel to access road surfaces.

Page S-11, bullet item 6 has been replaced as follows:

- ~~Develop additional mitigation measures (using a certified engineer) between corridor miles 39 and 41 due to the presence of an active landslide in the vicinity of tower 40/3.~~
- In the area of landslide (corridor miles 39 and 41) do not construct any new roads within 100 feet of the slide area. Reshape existing access road with out-slope to provide drainage, and site the tower east of the area if possible.

Page S-11, text added after last bullet as follows:

- Consider helicopter construction in areas of steep slopes to lessen the size of access roads and temporary tower site impacts (laydown areas for materials).

Page S-13, after bullet item 3, new text has been added as follows:

- Where access roads cross a dry wash, the road gradient should be 0% to avoid diverting surface waters from the channel.

Page S-13, bullet items 6 and 7 have been revised as follows:

- ~~Avoid blasting during periods when salmonid eggs or alevins are present in gravels.~~
- ~~Avoid blasting within 200 feet of fish-bearing or potentially fish-bearing streams.~~
- Avoid blasting within 200 feet of fish-bearing or potentially fish-bearing streams during periods when salmonid eggs or alevins are present in gravels.
- Conduct in-water work at the Columbia River during Corps of Engineers designated in-water work windows.

Page S-13, after bullet item 10 new text added as follows:

- Site staging areas away from stream beds.

For Columbia River water work:

- Site staging 150 feet or more from water body.
- If working within 150 feet of water body, check vehicles daily for leaks and diaper stationary power equipment.

- Construct during recommended Corps in-water work windows for the Columbia River (December 1 through March 31).
- Isolate in-water work area and capture and release fish from the work area under the supervision of a competent fisheries biologist experienced in capturing ESA-listed fish.
- Use appropriate fish screens on all intakes and pumps.

Page S-15, paragraph 1 has been modified as follows:

Of the 43 acres of wetlands located within the project corridor, less than 1.0 acre of wetland area ~~no wetland areas~~ would be filled to construct the proposed project. Vegetation would be cut within wetlands for McNary Substation Alternative B where the line would cross the wildlife refuge.

Page S-16, bullet item 1 has been modified as follows:

- Locate structures, new roads, and staging areas so as to avoid waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Where avoidance is not possible, provide compensation for wetland impacts in accordance with Corps Section 404 permitting requirements.

Page S-17, paragraphs 3 and 4 have been modified as follows:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified one federally listed threatened species (Utes ladies' tresses) and one candidate plant species (northern wormwood) as having potential habitat present within the project corridor. Neither species was found during initial field surveys conducted in July 2001. Additional field surveys are being conducted to coincide with peak flowering periods.

The Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) has identified the locations of known populations of four state sensitive plant species (Pauper's milkvetch, Snake River cryptantha, Piper's daisy, and smooth desert-parsley) in or adjacent to the project corridor. ~~potential habitat in or adjacent to the project corridor for two state sensitive plant species (Pauper's milkvetch and Snake River cryptantha) between structures 47/1 and 48/3~~. ~~Both~~ All four species occur in dry, open, flat, or sloping areas in stable or stony soils, where the overall cover of vegetation is relatively low. Pauper's milkvetch is also associated with big sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass shrub-steppe communities.

Page S-17, paragraph 5 has been modified as follows:

The proposed transmission line expansion would result in both permanent and temporary impacts to vegetation within the project corridor from vegetation removal or trampling and soil compaction. Permanent impacts would total approximately ~~54~~ 83 acres. Temporary impacts would total ~~121~~ 211 to ~~134~~ 226 acres, depending upon the number and location of conductor tensioning sites.

Page S-17, last paragraph has been modified as follows:

The proposed project would result in temporary impacts to ~~24~~ 42 to ~~27~~ 44 acres of native plants and approximately ~~4~~ 7 acres of cryptogamic crusts. Permanent project impacts would require the removal of approximately ~~12~~ 19 acres of native plant species, and ~~2~~ 3 acres of cryptogamic crusts. Loss of the cryptogamic crusts could result in an increase in soil erosion and decreased soil nutrient and water retention.

Page S-18, paragraph 3 has been modified as follows:

The proposed expansion of the McNary Substation would result in the loss of approximately 2 acres of mixed native/nonnative grassland communities. The construction of a ~~new 3-mile-long~~8 miles of new access roads, and 270 (250-foot-long) spur roads would result in ~~95~~ 63 acres of ~~temporary~~ permanent impacts to vegetation communities on the proposed route.

Page S-18, paragraph 4 has been modified as follows:

Operations and maintenance of new access roads would result in the permanent alteration of ~~31~~ 63 acres of existing vegetation communities in the proposed roadbeds. Impacts to local vegetative cover types during operation and maintenance of the access roads include continued disturbance and compaction of soils and the potential for spreading noxious weed species. An additional potential impact to local vegetation would be the risk of fire from vehicles driving along the access roads, particularly during dry periods.

Page S-19, bullet item 4 has been modified as follows:

- Minimize disturbance to native species and cryptogamic crusts to the extent possible during construction to prevent invasion by nonnative species and damage to cryptogamic crusts.

Page S-19, after bullet item 8, text has been added as follows:

- If Utes ladies' tresses is found during August 2002 surveys, avoid construction or construction activities in that location.
- Avoid construction or construction activities at location of desert evening-primrose (*Oenothera caespitosa ssp. marginata)* near tower 47/1.

Page S-19, bullet item 9 has been modified as follows:

- Minimize disturbance to native shrub-dominated shrub-steppe communities~~species and~~ and cryptogamic crusts ~~to the extent~~ where possible during construction. ~~to prevent invasion by nonnative species.~~ Where not possible, consider compensatory habitat through either restoration or acquisition and preservation of shrub-steppe communities.

Page S-22, bullet 4 has been replaced as follows:

- ~~Limit the number of contractors to cultural resource site sensitive information on a need-to-know basis.~~
- On maps and in specifications provided to construction contractors, indicate cultural sites as generic avoidance areas to maintain site confidentiality.

Page S-22, bullet 5 has been replaced as follows:

- ~~Continue consultation with the Umatilla Tribes and the Yakama Nation to determine appropriate tribal monitoring for ground disturbing activities.~~
- Have a monitor on site for construction activities in and around sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Determine sites to be monitored based on Bonneville practices for avoiding adverse effects to historic properties, tribal concerns and the Oregon and Washington SHPO concurrence.

Page S-22, bullet item 6 has been modified as follows:

- Continue consultation with the Umatilla Tribes, Warm Springs Tribes, and the Yakama Nation to set up consultation protocols on site mitigation and management.

Page S-22, bullet 7 has been modified as follows:

- Continue consultation with the Umatilla Tribes, the Warm Springs Tribes, and the Yakama Nation to ensure that the cultural and natural resources are protected.

Page S-22, after bullet 7, add a new bullet as follows:

- Conduct offsets and buffers around previously recorded and newly identified archaeological sites based on Bonneville practices for avoiding adverse effects to historic properties, tribal concerns and the Oregon and Washington SHPO concurrence.

Page S-22, bullet item 6 has been modified as follows:

- ~~If deemed appropriate, i~~Install line markers in avian flight paths or migration corridors, ~~such as~~ near crop irrigation circles in the vicinity of the town of Paterson (north of the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge) ~~if appropriate~~ and for the Columbia River crossings and the Rock Creek crossing.

Page S-35, bullet item 1 has been deleted as follows:

- ~~Because of the proximately of the proposed transmission line to agricultural fields, crop dusting pilots planning to enter the area would take suitable precautions to avoid collision with the proposed transmission lines.~~

Page S-35, new bullet has been added after last bullet on the page as follows:

- Should contaminated media be unexpectedly encountered during construction, work should stop and an environmental specialist called to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and determine appropriate State-approved measures to prevent spread and protect health and safety.

Purpose of and Need for Action (Chapter 1)

Need for Action

Page 1-2, paragraph 2 has been modified as follows:

Two of the generation facilities proposed in this area are the Starbuck Power Project (near Starbuck, Washington), and the Wallula Power Project (near Wallula, Washington). These gas-turbine facilities would generate a total of